

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4018

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UN, EGEN, SGEN, CO

SUBJ: 56TH ECOSOC--RESOLUTIONS ON IWY CONFERENCE:

US STATEMENT

REF: USUN 1686

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY MRS. PATRICIA HUTAR,
ALTERNATE US REP TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS, ON THE PASSAGE BY THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF
THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DURING
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN 1975, MAY 7, 1974:

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WE COMMEND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL FOR ITS OVER-
WHELMING APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE DURING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN 1975 BY A VOTE OF
44 TO 0 WITH FIVE ABSTENTIONS. THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE FOCAL
POINT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF THE YEAR.

WE EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA

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FOR THE KIND INVITATION TO HOST THIS CONFERENCE IN BOGOTA.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE RESOLUTION BY THE DELEGATE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO EXPANDED THE SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE AGENDA BY FOCUSING ATTENTION ON AN EVALUATION OF CURRENT TRENDS AND CHANGES IN THE ROLES OF WOMEN AND MEN IN POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, FAMILY AND CULTURAL LIFE. THESE INCLUDE THE SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND DECISION-MAKING. THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE THE EXAMINATION OF THE MAJOR OBSTACLES WHICH HINDER WOMEN FROM MAKING THEIR CONTRIBUTION AS FULL PARTNERS WITH MEN IN THE TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT AND FROM SHARING ITS BENEFITS IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN AREAS.

THE PASSAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION IS AN HISTORIC OCCASION THAT WILL MOVE THE UNITED NATIONS FURTHER TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS SET FORTH IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH REAFFIRM FAITH IN FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, IN THE DIGNITY AND WORTH OF THE HUMAN PERSON AND IN EQUAL RIGHTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WAS INITIATED BY THE UNITED STATES DURING THE MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. IT WAS CO-SPONSORED BY THE DELEGATIONS FROM COLOMBIA, WHICH HAS VOLUNTEERED TO HOST THE CONFERENCE, AND FROM CHILE, COSTA RICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, KENYA, LIBERIA, NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND. IT WAS WIDELY DEBATED AT THAT TIME AND RECEIVED THE ENTHUSIASTIC ENDORSEMENT OF THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION.

PRESIDENT NIXON OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMED 1975 AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES ON JANUARY 21, 1974. THE UNITED STATES PROCLAMATION HAS BEEN WIDELY DISTRIBUTED AND GIVES FURTHER IMPETUS TO DOMESTIC INITIATIVES TO ELIMINATE REMAINING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN THIS COUNTRY AND TO HELP WOMEN ACHIEVE EQUAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN ALL AREAS OF THE NATION'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL LIFE. UNQTE SCALI

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